

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

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Double-flowered Cherries. Small plants covered with flowers of two of the handsomest of the double-flowered Japanese Cherries can be seen in the Cherry Collection on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills Road. They are varieties of *Prunus serrulata*, var. *sachalinensis*, the so-called Sargent Cherry, and are named *fugenzo* and *albo-rosea*. The first has rose-pink flowers and bronze-colored young leaves, and is believed to be one of the most beautiful of all double-flowered Cherries. This plant has become common in English gardens under the name of "James H. Veitch." In Japan it is called "kofugen" or "benifugen." The form *albo-rosea* has pink flower-buds which become white as the flowers open. Like those of the form *fugenzo* the flowers have two green leafy carpels in the centre and these distinguish these two varieties from all the other Japanese double-flowered Cherries. There are twelve other double-flowered forms of the Sargent Cherry among the seventy-five varieties of different species of Cherries cultivated by the Japanese for the beauty of their flowers and introduced into the Arboretum by Wilson two years ago. In the last fifty years many attempts have been made to cultivate some of these plants in the United States and Europe but with no great success, and they are now imported in considerable numbers every year into the United States from Japanese nurseries. Such plants, however, are short-lived and unsatisfactory, and from studies of these Cherries in Japan Mr. Wilson became convinced that it was the stock on which they were worked in Japan as well as in the United States and Europe that was the cause of their failure, and that the only hardy, long-lived reliable stock for them was the wild type of the Sargent Cherry. If his con-

clusions are correct, there seems no reason why these double-flowered forms should not grow here to be large and long-lived trees. The double-flowered Japanese Cherries bloom later than the trees with single flowers and in normal seasons just before or with the Lilacs; they remain in flower for several days, and if they prove really successful when the proper stock is used on which to graft them the beauty and interest of the spring gardens of the United States will be greatly increased.

Rhododendron (Azalea) japonicum. This Azalea, although the flowers are less brilliant than those of the now better known *R. (Azalea) Kaempferi*, is probably the handsomest of the hardy Azaleas of eastern Asia. The flowers are flame color and rather more than three inches in diameter. As it grows here this Azalea is a round-topped, rather compact, hardy shrub blooming freely every year. It was raised at the Arboretum from seeds collected in Japan by Professor Sargent in 1892 and has been growing in the Arboretum as long as *R. Kaempferi*. Long confused here with the *Azalea mollis* of gardens, less attention has been paid to it, and it is only recently that its specific characters and value have been understood. One of the parents of the hybrid *A. mollis* of gardens it is a handsomer, longer-lived, and more satisfactory plant than that popular and well-known Azalea. In gardens *Rhododendron japonicum* is still one of the rarest of all the hardy Azaleas. It is now in bloom on the lower side of Azalea Path where there is a group of large and small plants.

An early-flowering Hawthorn. The first Hawthorn to bloom in the Arboretum every year is *Crataegus nigra*, a native of southeastern Europe. The Arboretum specimen is a shapely tree from fifteen to eighteen feet high, with a broad compact head and a well-formed trunk covered with pale scaly bark. The leaves are broad, deeply-lobed, covered below with soft hairs, and grayish green in color. The flowers are hardly more than half an inch in diameter, with twenty stamens and anthers faintly tinged with rose, and are borne in small compact clusters. As the flowers fade the petals turn rose color. As a flowering tree *Crataegus nigra* is less beautiful than many of the American Thorns, but the black and lustrous fruit is unusual in color among Thorn trees. The color of the fruit and the earliness of the flowers make this an interesting addition, however, to the list of small trees with showy flowers which can be successfully cultivated in Massachusetts.

A few American Thorns. Several of the early large-flowered American Thorns have been in bloom for several days and are conspicuous and beautiful objects. Among them may be mentioned *Crataegus Arnoldiana*, *C. Ellwangeriana*, *C. pedicellata* and *C. coccinioides*. *C. Arnoldiana* is easily distinguished even in winter by its conspicuously zigzag branchlets armed with long straight thorns; the flowers with their ten stamens and yellow anthers are in broad, many-flowered clusters, and late in August, when the trees are covered with their bright scarlet fruit dotted with white and three-quarters of an inch in diameter, they are more beautiful even than at the end of May. On account of its early ripening and showy fruit this is one of the best of the American Hawthorns for the decoration of summer gardens. *C. Ellwangeriana* is common in the neighborhood of Rochester, N. Y.,

and ranges into Pennsylvania, Ontario and Michigan. It is a tree sometimes twenty feet tall with wide-spreading horizontal branches and a tall trunk often a foot in diameter, flowers an inch across with ten stamens and rose-colored anthers, and large oblong scarlet fruit ripening and falling at the end of September or early in October. *C. pedicellata* is one of the commonest arborescent species in the western New York-Ontario region, and is often twenty feet high with a tall trunk and ascending and spreading branches. The flowers are half an inch in diameter with ten stamens and rose-colored anthers, and the large oblong fruit is bright scarlet. *C. coccinioides* is distinct in its very compact, few-flowered, nearly globose clusters of large flowers with twenty stamens and large, dark rose-colored anthers. The fruit, which ripens early in October and falls gradually during a month or six weeks, is subglobose, much flattened at the ends, slightly angled, bright scarlet and nearly an inch in diameter. *C. coccinioides* is a native of the region in the neighborhood of St. Louis, Missouri, and is one of the handsomest and most distinct of American Thorns. Many other young Thorn trees are now in bloom in the new *Crataegus* plantation on the eastern slope of Peter's Hill, and during the next four or five weeks there will be an opportunity to examine there the flowers of three or four hundred species of these plants.

Cotoneaster multiflora, var. calocarpa. This is the first of the new Chinese Cotoneasters to flower this year. It is a shrub with slender gracefully arching stems and narrow blue-green leaves. The arching of the stems brings the flowers, which are borne in erect clusters on short lateral branches, into a conspicuous position and there is now in the Arboretum no shrub in bloom more graceful in habit or more charming in the arrangement of its flowers. The fruit of this species is dull red and about one quarter of an inch in diameter. This plant can be seen in the large collection of Chinese Cotoneasters on the southern slope of Bussey Hill. It is now well worth examination, as are all the species in this group, for among them are some of the most beautiful of all shrubs of recent introduction.

Malus theifera. This Crab-apple, which was introduced by Wilson from western China, is flowering this year in the Arboretum for the third time and gives every promise here of increasing the number of trees with beautiful flowers which can be grown successfully in this climate. In habit this Crab-apple differs from all others in its stiff, wide-spreading and slightly ascending branches which make an unusually open head. The flowers are light pink and about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and when they cover the branches the plants look like Cherry-trees rather than Apple-trees. The fruit ripens in October and is yellowish green or red and about a quarter of an inch in diameter. The name *theifera* has been given to this plant as the Chinese living on the mountains in central and western China use the dried leaves as a substitute for tea. The best plant of this beautiful little tree in the Arboretum is in the collection at the base of Peter's Hill.

Magnolia Fraseri. This is the first of the American Magnolias to bloom in the Arboretum and has now been in flower for several days. It is a small tree rarely more than forty feet high with an open head of long branches, leaves often a foot in length and deeply divided at the base, and creamy-white, sweet-scented flowers eight or ten inches

in diameter and very conspicuous, as they stand well above the ends of the branches. This Magnolia is a native of the southern Appalachian region, and, although it has not been found yet growing naturally north of southwestern Virginia, it is perfectly hardy in eastern Massachusetts. The flowers of the Cucumber-tree, *M. acuminata*, and of *M. cordata* soon follow and are already beginning to open. The American Magnolias were once highly prized, especially in Europe, as ornamental trees, but, with the exception of *M. macrophylla* and *M. acuminata*, they are now difficult to find in American nurseries, although as a group few trees are better worth a place in northern parks and gardens. The American Magnolias are on the right hand side and close to the Jamaica Plain entrance.

Syringa pubescens. Attention is called again to this Lilac from northern China, for it is still too little known, although some persons who know it best consider that it is better worth a place in the garden than any other species or variety of Lilac. It is a native of northern China, and is a tall shrub with erect stems, small leaves, and broad clusters of pale lilac-colored flowers remarkable for the long tube of the corolla and for their delicate fragrance. For this fragrance, if for no other reason, this Lilac should find a place in every northern garden. The plant in the Arboretum collection is now covered with opening flowers.

Prunus Padus, var. commutata. This variety of the Old World Bird Cherry is probably a native of eastern Siberia or Manchuria, and is interesting in the fact that it puts forth its leaves ten or twelve days earlier than any other tree in eastern Massachusetts. It blooms, too, two weeks earlier than the American or the other Old World Bird Cherries. The pure white flowers are borne in long pendant racemes and are exceedingly fragrant. The fruit is not known here. The seed from which this plant was raised was sent from the Botanic Garden at Petrograd in 1878, incorrectly named *Prunus Maackii*, under which name the young plants were distributed from the Arboretum, and as *Prunus Maackii* it is still cultivated and much esteemed in some Illinois gardens. *Prunus Padus*, var. *commutata*, has also been cultivated in this country under the name of *Prunus Grayana* which is a Japanese Bird Cherry still rarely found in American gardens. It is one of the hand-somest arborescent shrubs or small trees of its class; it grows with remarkable rapidity, is perfectly hardy and never fails to produce great crops of flowers. Although the early leaves have never been injured here, in regions where severe spring frosts prevail they might be destroyed.

Prunus Maackii. The true *Prunus Maackii* is in bloom. It is a tree with a well-formed trunk covered with bright orange-colored bark separating readily into thin plates, short erect clusters of small white flowers, and small black fruit. The only interesting things about this tree are its Birch-like bark which differs from that of any other Bird Cherry and its rarity in gardens. It can be seen near the entrance to the Shrub Collection at the Forest Hills Gate. There are other specimens in the mixed plantation near the top of Peter's Hill.